

What is claimed is:

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1. A transmission method for transmitting data obtained in an output device connected to a predetermined network to the network from the output device and receiving the data by an input device connected to said network, comprising:

a step for the output device or a controller for controlling transmission on the network to send a first instruction for inquiring the version of a function set in said input device;

a step for receiving a return transmission corresponding to the first instruction and confirming the version set in said input device;

a version change instruction step of if the version set in the output device or the controller is lower than the version of the confirmed input device, sending a second instruction for changing the version set in said input device to a lower version to said input device; and

a step of after the set version is changed to a lower version by the second instruction, starting transmission of the data from the output device.

2. The transmission method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of, prior to the version change instruction

step, inquiring whether or not changing of the version set in the input device to a lower version is possible.

3. The transmission method according to claim 1, wherein information about a function capable of being executed under the version is attached to return transmission from the input device corresponding to the first instruction.

4. The transmission method according to claim 3, wherein information about a function capable of being executed under the changed version is attached to return transmission from the input device corresponding to the second instruction.

5. A transmission system for transmitting data obtained in an output device using a set connection based on control of a controller connected to a predetermined network from the output device to said network and receiving the data by an input device connected to said network, wherein

said controller comprises an instruction issue means for issuing a first instruction for inquiring the version of a function set in said input device and a second instruction for changing the version set in said input device to a lower version,

said input device having a version control means for when said first instruction is received, sending back the set

version and when said second instruction is received, sending back whether or not it is possible to change the set version to a lower version.

6. The transmission system according to claim 5, wherein the version control means of the input device attaches information about a function capable of being executed under the set version to return transmission corresponding to reception of the first instruction.

7. The transmission system according to claim 6, wherein the information about the function capable of being executed is information indicating that other device on the bus is provided with a function capable of transmitting data.

8. The transmission system according to claim 6, wherein the information about the function capable of being executed is information indicating provision of a function capable of receiving data from other device on the bus.

9. The transmission system according to claim 6, wherein the version control means of the input device attaches information about the function capable of being executed under the changed version to return transmission corresponding to reception of the second instruction.

10. The transmission system according to claim 4,
wherein the output device acts as the controller at the same
time.

11. A transmission control apparatus for controlling
transmission on the network by transmitting data obtained in an
output device connected to a predetermined network to the
network from the output device and receiving the data by an
input device connected to said network,

said transmission control apparatus further comprising
an instruction issue means for issuing a first instruction for
inquiring the version of a function set in said input device and
a second instruction for changing the version set in said input
device to a lower version.

12. The transmission control apparatus according to
claim 11, wherein the instruction issue means attaches
information for inquiring a function capable of being executed
under the set version to the first instruction.

13. The transmission control apparatus according to
claim 12, wherein the instruction issue means attaches
information for inquiring a function capable of being executed
under the changed version to the second instruction.

14. An input device for receiving data transmitted from an output device connected to a predetermined network to the network, further comprising a version control means for when a first instruction is received, sending back the set version and when a second instruction is received, sending back whether or not it is possible to change the set version to a lower version.

15. The input device according to claim 14, wherein the version control means includes a version change means for changing the version of the set input device.

16. The input device according to claim 15, wherein the version change means has a memory means for memorizing a program for changing the version.

17. The input device according to claim 15, wherein the version change means has an obtaining means for obtaining a program for changing the version from other device.

18. The input device according to claim 14, wherein the version control means attaches information indicating a function capable of being executed under the set version to return transmission corresponding to the first instruction.

19. The input device according to claim 18, wherein the version control means attaches information indicating a function capable of being executed under the changed version to return transmission corresponding to the second instruction when the version is capable of being changed according to the second instruction.

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